

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application

DEPARTMENT: Fiscal Services

DIVISION: Administration - Fiscal Services

AUTHORIZED BY: Lisa Spriggs

CONTACT: Jennifer Bero

EXT: 7125

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Approve to submit a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security requesting \$500,000.00 through their Assistance to Firefighters Program and authorize the County Manager to execute supporting documents.

County-wide

Jennifer Bero, Tad Stone

BACKGROUND:

The US Department of Homeland Security is offering the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program to provide funding to local fire departments and non-affiliated emergency medical services organizations to help acquire needed equipment and services. Operation equipment requests preferred are those having a direct affect on the health and safety of the public, promotes interoperability, and/or will be used to replace used or obsolete equipment.

Staff is requesting Board approval to resubmit an application to supplement the cost to replace the existing Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system used by the Public Safety Emergency Communications Center. The system is an automated process to provide dispatch resources to fire/rescue emergencies in unincorporated Seminole County, all municipalities and the airport property. Replacement of the system would allow a conduit from other sources to provide more extensive and shared information to all first responders, regardless of geo-political boundary.

Last year the project was presented to the Board of County Commissioners at a Budget Worksession, at an amount of \$1.2M, the current project reequest being substantially lower at \$650,000. The proposed application would request \$500,000 in grant funding with a 23% match. The match is proposed to be funded from General Fund "Operating Contingency".

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board approve to submit a grant application to the Department of Homeland Security requesting \$500,000.00 through their Assistance to Firefighters Program and authorize the County Manager to execute supporting documents.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Abstract - AFG CAD System

Additionally Reviewed By: No additional reviews

**GRANT PROPOSAL REVIEW FORM – ABSTRACT
GRANTS ADMINISTRATION DIVISION**

FUNDER: US Department of Homeland Security

DATE DUE: April 4, 2008

PROJECT TITLE: Emergency Communication CAD System

DEPARTMENT: Public Safety

PROJECT INITIATOR(S): Tad Stone, Public Safety Department Director

PROJECT MANAGER: Tad Stone, Public Safety Department Director

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (Please see attached)

PROPOSED AMOUNT REQUESTED: \$ 500,000

MATCHING FUNDS: \$ 150,000 (23% of project cost)

SOURCES OF MATCH/PROJECT COST: General Fund

PROPOSED PROJECT COST: \$ 650,000

GRANT FUNDING IS:

☒ COMPETITIVE

☐ ENTITLEMENT

☐ CONTRACT

CAD System Emergency Communications/E-911

Seminole County utilizes a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system purchased from Orbacom to provide the Public Safety Emergency Communications Center with an automated process to dispatch resources to fire/rescue emergencies in unincorporated Seminole County, all municipalities and the airport property. The CAD receives pertinent location information from the 911 phone data or caller and recommends the appropriate resource response to the emergency. A Public Safety CAD typically provides the following specific functions:

- Multi-Jurisdictional response
- Prints Out Rip and Run Sheet
- Address validation, with map, directions, cross streets
- Unit Recommendations
- Emergency Contact File
- Hazardous and Handicap Warnings
- Overdue Alert Timer
- Previous Events Warning
- Unit Status Monitor
- Automatic Paging/Faxing
- Automatically Feeds Field Reporting
- Sends the Call to the Unit, along with all the pertinent data
- CAD-to-Unit Messaging, and vice versa (messages are stored)
- E-911 Interface
- Performance Reports (Personnel, Apparatus, Shift, Dispatcher)

The Orbacom CAD has provided a fundamental adequacy in its performance to date. However, following a report by the Fire Chief's, the system is marked with deficiencies caused primarily by aging, which includes serious interconnectivity weaknesses resulting in a failure to meet the integral needs of a system as complex as Seminole County's. The delivered product has changed over the course of the installation and no longer meets the original RFP requirements. Therefore, there is a strong need for replacement of the CAD at this time.

POSITION OF REPLACING THE CAD

The vision is to replace the Seminole County Orbacom CAD with a product that has the ability to serve a jurisdiction with a population of 400,000 today, and have the potential to meet a growing demand over the next two decades. It is imperative that the new system continues to serve all fire jurisdictions in Seminole County. The CAD must be a resource, more than a dispatch tool. It should be a conduit from other sources to provide a wealth of information to all first responders regardless of geo-political boundary. With this vision in mind we can procure a CAD that provides instantaneous data to the responders and be able to share data with other responding agencies.

COST

Although difficult to determine the cost of a new CAD including a mobile component purchased from a private vendor, the anticipated cost of \$650,000 (project amount reduced from \$1.2 million in prior year) will provide for system installation, training, professional services, connectivity and hardware.

DPS & SCSO CAD Interface.

The Orbacom CAD historically does not fully interface with other applications. With jurisdictional issues and the changing demographics of our community, a CAD programmed with current technology will be both efficient and technically sound, demanding accuracy in dispatching to improve emergency response times.

It is imperative to maintain a CAD system with the ability to interface with the SCSO's XCAD. Since the event of 9/11, interoperability has been identified as a leading focus to bring communication centers together to improve system efficiency. Barriers are eliminated since both CAD's will communicate effortlessly. Public Safety maintains information such as hazardous materials and occupancy, whereas the Sheriff's Office may maintain law enforcement information on the same address, currently this is not shared. With the ease of data transmissions, this information can be shared.

The CAD's will share information for a common and efficient response. This collaboration will provide an avenue to create a system that we control by designing collaborative systems between Public Safety and the SCSO.